



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Alaska Region
Tongass National Forest

648 Mission Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone: (907) 225-3101
Fax: (907) 228-6215

File Code: 1950

Date: March 12, 2015

Dear National Forest User:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the **Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area Management Plan Revision, Commercial Guide, Outfitter and Transport Services** project are available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37050. The EA, and associated maps and appendices, are located under the "Project Documents – Analysis" heading. The Decision Notice and its maps and appendix are located under the "Project Documents – Decision" heading. To request a copy of this EA or Decision Notice in hard copy or CD format, please contact: Jennifer Berger at (907) 789-6278 or at the address listed near the end of this letter.

The EA is the same as the document released in October 2014. The Decision Notice explains my selection of Alternative 2 as my draft decision. In my draft decision the commercial allocation on trails and Mendenhall Lake would increase to meet the public demand for more opportunities for guided recreation experiences while protecting the MGRA's natural resources. The Decision Notice contains my rationale for this draft decision, provides a finding of no significant impact and describes the outreach we did to seek input. The Decision Notice also summarizes the comments and concerns we heard from the public and provides a summarized response to those comments.

This project is subject to the Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process (Objection Process) pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B.

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunities for public comment in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to:

Beth Pendleton, Reviewing Officer
USFS, Alaska Regional Office
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628
(Physical address - 709 West 9th Street, Room 549)
Fax: (907) 586-7840
Email: objections-alaska-regional-office@fs.fed.us



Electronically filed objections may be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html).

Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in the *Ketchikan Daily News*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

At a minimum, an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)):

- 1) The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
- 2) A signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for email may be filed with the objection);
- 3) When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request);
- 4) The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented;
- 5) A description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and
- 6) A statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection.

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in 36 CFR 218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to 36 CFR 218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

If you have questions or want additional information, please contact: Jennifer Berger, Juneau Ranger District, 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road, Juneau, AK 99801, 907-789-6278, jberger@fs.fed.us.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this process.

Sincerely,

/s/ Forrest Cole
FORREST COLE
Forest Supervisor

cc: Terry Knupp

Lisa A Fluharty
Milton Fusselman
Cavan Fitzsimmons
Karen Iwamoto
Robin Dale
Brad Orr
Jennifer Berger